

APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST FORM

OREGON HOUSE DELEGATION

FISCAL YEAR 2010

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: FEBRUARY 13, 2009

PLEASE NOTE: As required by the House Appropriations Committee, all requests will be made public on the requesting Member's website.

1. Project Title:

The Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP)

2. Organization Name and address:

The Nature Conservancy Worldwide Office
4245 North Fairfax Drive
Arlington, VA 22203

The Nature Conservancy in Oregon
821 SE 14th Avenue
Portland, OR 97214-2537

3. Primary Contact name, phone number, mobile phone number, fax number and email:

The Nature Conservancy Worldwide Office
Emily Woglom
Senior Policy Advisor
703/841-5374
ewoglom@tnc.org

The Nature Conservancy in Oregon
Mike Dennis
Federal Government Relations
Work: 503/802-8100
Fax: 503/802-8199
Michael_dennis@tnc.org

4. Project Location Address (if different from Organization):

The Coastal and Land Estuarine Conservation Program (CELCP) will support the protection of coastal sites across the country. Specific projects will be selected by NOAA through a competitive selection process. Since the inception of CELCP in 2002, over 26 states have received funding from the CELCP program to help protect land for habitat, open space and recreational uses.

Big Creek on the Oregon Coast in Lane County represents a project that CELCP can fund and enable. The property is an inholding at Big Creek, within the Siuslaw National Forest, bounded on the west by Highway 101, and surrounded by public lands, including the 7,386 acre Rock Creek Wilderness Area to the north and east, and Washburne Memorial State Park to the south. (A map of the project location is included in the attachment.)

If CELCP is funded, other projects on the Oregon Coast may receive CELCP funds as well.

5. Please describe the requesting organization's main activities, and whether it is a public, private non-profit, or private for-profit entity:6. Briefly describe the activity or project for which funding is requested (please keep to 500 words or less.)7. Has this project received federal appropriations funding in past fiscal years?

The Nature Conservancy is a private, international, non-profit organization that preserves plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. To date the Conservancy has been responsible for the protection of more than 12 million acres in the United States and has helped preserve more than 80 million acres in Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific.

In Oregon, the Conservancy owns or manages 46 nature preserves and has helped protect over 500,000 acres of important habitats, with support from about 23,000 household members.

6. Briefly describe the activity or project for which funding is requested (please keep to 500 words or less.)

We are requesting \$60 million to fund the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) Coastal and Land Estuarine Conservation Program (CELCP) nationally so that it can fund projects in coastal states across the country. CELCP is a voluntary program to help states and local governments protect coastal and estuarine lands considered important for their ecological, conservation, recreational, historical or aesthetic values, through fee acquisition and conservation easements.

The Big Creek property in Oregon (see attachment) serves as an example of a project that could be funded with CELCP funds. Contingent upon CELCP receiving funding for FY2010, Oregon will submit the Big Creek project to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (which will manage the competitive selection process) for funding consideration. If selected by NOAA, the project will acquire 193 acres of forest, a freshwater stream, grasslands, shrublands, and riverine estuary habitat along the central Oregon Coast in Lane County.

Securing fee to the Big Creek property title will protect it from pending development; preserve habitat for threatened species, including salmon, marbled murrelet and the Oregon silverspot butterfly; protect habitat quality in an adjacent federal wilderness; and provide access for the public. The Big Creek property will become an addition to Washburne State Park, and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department will manage the property and build a hiking trail.

7. Has this project received federal appropriations funding in past fiscal years?

Yes, CELCP has been funded since its inception in 2002.

(However, Big Creek, the specific Oregon project that we plan to submit to NOAA if CELCP is funded, has not received federal appropriations.)

7a. If yes, please provide fiscal year, Department, Account, and funding amount of any previous funding.

Previous programmatic funding to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP):

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Overall Program Funding</u> |
|-------------|------------------------------------|
| FY02: | \$15.8 M |
| FY03: | \$37.4 M |
| FY04: | \$50.6 M |
| FY05: | \$38.7 M |
| FY06: | \$38.4 M |
| FY07: | \$27.5 M |
| FY08: | \$7.9 M |
| FY09: | Budget not yet determined |

8. Federal agency and account from which funds are requested (Please be specific –e.g. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Economic Development Initiatives account):

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Acquisition and Construction Account
Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP)

9. What is the purpose of the project? Why is it a valuable use of taxpayer funds? How will the project support efforts to improve the economy and create jobs in Oregon?

The purpose of the \$60 million for the Coastal and Land Estuarine Conservation Program (CELCP) is to help states and local governments protect important coastal and estuarine lands. Projects are competitively selected, and all CELCP projects require a 100 percent match from non-federal sources.

Protected coastal and estuarine lands have significant economic, cultural, and ecological value. Coastal lands filter pollutants from stormwater runoff; control flooding after severe storm events; serve as important nursery habitat for fish and shellfish, as well as nesting and foraging habitat for coastal birds; and provide valuable opportunities for coastal recreation and nature-based tourism.

As population growth, unplanned development, and competing demands continue to increase pressure along our coasts, CELCP provides an opportunity to protect lands that have significant value to local communities and the nation as a whole.

For Oregon, if CELCP is funded and the Big Creek project is later selected by NOAA, CELCP will enable the acquisition of 193 acres of forest, a freshwater stream, grasslands, shrublands, and riverine estuary habitat along the central Oregon Coast in Lane County. Acquisition of the property presents an opportunity to protect designated critical habitat for the federally threatened Oregon silverspot butterfly. Big Creek hosts populations of coastal coho salmon and steelhead, and it is one of Oregon's few remaining undammed coastal streams. (An attachment provides additional details, photos, and a map.)

In addition, the acquisition will also protect the Big Creek area from potential destination resort development which has been proposed for the site.

10. Have you requested funding for this project from other Members of Congress? If so, who?

Yes, The Nature Conservancy in Oregon will be requesting funds for NOAA's CELCP program from the following Members of Congress:

Senator Jeff Merkley
Senator Ron Wyden

Representative David Wu, District 1
Representative Peter DeFazio, District 4
Representative Kurt Schrader, District 5

11. Funding Details:

a. Total project cost (all funding sources and all years):

\$200 million in federal appropriations since Congress created CELCP in 2002.

b. Amount being requested for this project in Fiscal Year 2010:

A programmatic request of \$60 million for the entire CELCP program nationwide, to be allotted and distributed to individual projects by NOAA on a competitive basis.

This amount will return CELCP to its historic funding levels, plus address and meet the growing demand for CELCP funds: in the past three years, over \$230 million of vetted and ranked projects competed for less than \$51 million of available funding.

**c. What other funding sources (local, regional, state) are contributing to this project or activity?
(Please provide specific dollar amount or percentage.)**

Projects are competitively selected and require a 100 percent non-federal match. If CELCP is funded at a level of \$60 million for FY 2010, it will leverage an additional \$60 million of local and state match.

In Oregon, if the Big Creek project is awarded CELCP funds by NOAA, it will provide \$2 million towards the overall \$4,103,000 project cost to protect Big Creek – and will be matched by other local, regional, and state funds:

- The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: \$2 million in state funds
- The Nature Conservancy: \$25,000 in cash
- The Doris Duke Charitable Trust: Up to \$250,000

d. Do you expect to request federal funding in future years for this project?

Yes, we expect to make programmatic requests for federal funding for CELCP in future years.

e. Breakdown/budget of the amount you are requesting for this project in FY 2010.

(e.g. salary \$40,000; computer \$3,000):

For this programmatic request for CELCP, the majority of funds will be used for land acquisition. A small percentage is authorized for NOAA to manage the grant process.

For the Big Creek project, the attachment provides information on the sources of funding.

f. Please list public or private organizations that have supported/endorsed this project:

The Big Creek project has broad support from federal, state, and local entities for this acquisition. The U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Oregon Coastal Resources Department, Lane County, and the Audubon Society of Portland have written statements of support.

g. Is this project scalable? (i.e. if partial funding is awarded, will the organization be able to use the funds in FY 2010?):

Yes.

Please return this form no later than February 13, 2009 (via email) to:

appropriations.blumenauer@mail.house.gov